

**REGULAR WEEKLY SESSION-----RONAOKE CITY COUNCIL**

**January 2, 2001**

**12:15 p.m.**

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in regular session on Tuesday, January 2, 2001, at 12:15 p.m., the regular meeting hour, in the City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, Virginia, with Mayor Ralph K. Smith presiding, pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, City Council, Section 2-15, Rules of Procedure, Rule 1, Regular Meetings, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended.

**PRESENT: Council Members Linda F. Wyatt, William D. Bestpitch, William H. Carder, C. Nelson Harris, W. Alvin Hudson, Jr., William White, Sr., and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-----7.**

**ABSENT: None-----0.**

**OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; James D. Ritchie, Sr., Deputy City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; James D. Grisso, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.**

**CITY ATTORNEY-COUNCIL: A communication from the City Attorney requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to consult with legal counsel on a matter of actual litigation, pursuant to Section 2.1-344(A)(7), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.**

**Mr. Carder moved that Council concur in the request of the City Attorney to convene in a Closed Meeting to consult with legal counsel on a matter of actual litigation, pursuant to Section 2.1-344(A)(7), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and adopted by the following vote:**

**AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, Harris, Hudson, White and Mayor Smith-----7.**

**NAYS: None-----0.**

**COMMITTEES-COUNCIL: A communication from Mayor Ralph K. Smith requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss vacancies on various authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council, pursuant to Section 2.1-344(A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.**

Mr. White moved that Council concur in the request of the Mayor to convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss vacancies on various authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council, pursuant to Section 2.1-344(A)(7), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, Harris, Hudson, White and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

CITY ATTORNEY-CITY CLERK-DIRECTOR OF FINANCE: A communication from the Honorable C. Nelson Harris, Chair, City Council Personnel Committee, requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss the performance of three Council-Appointed Officers, pursuant to Section 2.1-344(A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Mr. Carder moved that Council concur in the request of Council Member Harris as above described. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, Harris, Hudson, White and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

At 12:20 p.m., the Mayor declared the meeting in recess.

At 2:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 2, 2001, the regular meeting of Roanoke City Council reconvened in the City Council Chamber, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, Virginia, with Mayor Smith presiding, pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, City Council, Section 2-15, Rules of Procedure, Rule 1, Regular Meetings, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended.

PRESENT: Council Members Linda F. Wyatt, William D. Bestpitch, William H. Carder, C. Nelson Harris, W. Alvin Hudson, Jr., William White, Sr., and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; James D. Ritchie, Sr., Deputy City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; James D. Grisso, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The reconvened meeting was opened with a prayer by Council Member C. Nelson Harris.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Smith.

### CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor advised that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine by the Members of Council and would be enacted by one motion in the form, or forms, listed on the Consent Agenda, and if discussion was desired, the item would be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the regular meetings of Council held on Monday, July 3, 2000, Monday, July 17, 2000; and the Council's Planning Retreat held on July 20-21, 2000, were before the body.

(For full text, see Minutes on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Mr. Harris moved that the reading of the Minutes be dispensed with and that the Minutes be approved as recorded. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

**AYES:** Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, Harris, Hudson, White and Mayor Smith-----7.

**NAYS:** None-----0.

**ARMORY/STADIUM:** A communication from the City Manager requesting that the City Clerk be authorized to advertise a public hearing with regard to Victory Stadium for Monday, January 29, 2001, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the City Council Chamber, was before the body.

Mr. Harris moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

**AYES:** Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, Harris, Hudson, White and Mayor Smith-----7.

**NAYS:** None-----0.

**TRAFFIC:** A communication from the City Manager requesting that the City Clerk be authorized to advertise a public hearing with regard to I-73 for Tuesday, January 16, 2001, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the City Council Chamber, was before the body.

Mr. Harris moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

**AYES:** Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, Harris, Hudson, White and Mayor Smith-----7.

**NAYS:** None-----0.

**AUDIT-MUNICIPAL AUDITOR-COMMITTEES:** Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting which was held on Monday, December 4, 2000, were before Council.

Mr. Harris moved that the Minutes of the Audit Committee be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

**AYES:** Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, Harris, Hudson, White and Mayor Smith-----7.

**NAYS:** None-----0.

**AUDITS-BUSES-COMMITTEES:** Minutes of the Greater Roanoke Transit Company Audit Committee meeting which was held on Monday, December 4, 2000, were before Council.

Mr. Harris moved that the Minutes of the Greater Roanoke Transit Company Audit Committee be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

**AYES:** Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, Harris, Hudson, White and Mayor Smith-----7.

**NAYS:** None-----0.

**INDUSTRIES-VIRGINIA'S FIRST REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL FACILITY AUTHORITY-OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES:** The following reports of qualification were before Council:

Elizabeth Neu as a City representative to fill the unexpired term of Phillip F. Sparks, resigned; and William D. Bestpitch as a City representative to fill the unexpired term of James O. Trout, deceased, as members of Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority, ending September 24, 2002; and

Elizabeth Neu as a member of the Economic Development Commission, to fill the unexpired term of Phillip F. Sparks, resigned, ending June 30, 2001.

Mr. Harris moved that the reports of qualification be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, Harris, Hudson, White and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

#### REGULAR AGENDA

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: NONE.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATION: NONE.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS:

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL-ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY-LEGISLATION-WATER RESOURCES-SEWERS AND STORM DRAINS: The City Manager called upon John G. Reed, Civil Engineer, II, a briefing on the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, Phase II (NPDES), Project.

Mr. Reed advised that a new law under the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water Act will have a significant impact with regard to the handling of storm water in the Roanoke Valley; municipalities will be responsible for their storm water system, as well as the quality of water that is discharged from the system; and the goal of the new law is to support cleaner water for creeks and rivers in the Roanoke Valley that extend beyond jurisdictional boundaries into the Counties of Montgomery, Roanoke and Botetourt; and the City has been working in conjunction with the City of Salem, Roanoke County and the Town of Vinton with regard to preliminary issues of compliance.

**Mr. Reed introduced Elizabeth Treadway, senior consultant, Emek, Birth and Environmental Consultants, to provide specific information pertaining to the new requirement.**

**Ms. Treadway advised that the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is a series of complex regulations dealing with specific points of discharge into receiving streams of industrial and municipal wastewater; and the intent of the Clean Water Act was to address, comprehensively, all points of discharge, including surface water run off from farms and urban environments which contributed to the degradation of creeks, streams and rivers; and the NPDES storm water focuses on two primary pollutants: exposure rain water and non-storm water related items.**

**She further advised that the pollution which is now being carried within the drainage system is probably the last largest single contributor to water quality degradation, and this is where localities have to change the overall health and condition of receiving streams, lakes, ponds, or any body of water that is deemed by the EPA as a body of water to be protected; the EPA and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality are now regulating stormwater quality for localities with populations of less than 100,000; and in December 1999, the City was given approximately three years to establish a program, under a permit to be issued by the Department of Environmental Quality, to implement programmatic strategies to address the following:**

- Public education**
- Public participation and involvement**
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination**
- Construction site management**
- Post construction controls**
- Pollution prevention/good housekeeping practices for City operations**

**Ms. Treadway added that effective March 10, 2003, localities in the Roanoke Valley, which include the Cities of Roanoke and Salem, the Counties of Roanoke and Botetourt, and the Town of Vinton will be required to comply with Phase II provisions of the Clean Water Act and to obtain a NPDES permit for stormwater quality and initiate compliance; the cost for water quality has been estimated from \$1.70 to \$7.60 per capita, and stormwater quantity and quality programs have been estimated at \$60.00 to \$100.00 per acre for a comprehensive approach to manage stormwater.**

**In closing, she pointed out that once the permit application has been filed, localities will have approximately five years to ensure that the six program elements mentioned above are implemented.**

Mr. White called attention to an article in the Council's Update advising of a survey with regard to storm drainage issues in the Forest Park neighborhood, and inquired as to whether the residents have been contacted concerning the inspection; whereupon, Mr. Reed responded that notification letters will be sent to each property owner and a neighborhood forum is scheduled to address questions and/or concerns.

Mr. Bestpitch referred to a news report with regard to a number of localities that have encountered high levels of ecoli and other forms of bacteria, which were traced back to animal waste, and inquired if the City needs to educate its citizens about the impact of pet waste washing into the drainage system; whereupon, Ms. Treadway responded in the affirmative and encouraged the promotion of public education, especially for youth.

There being no further discussion, the Mayor advised that without objection by Council, the remarks would be received and filed.

#### **ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES:** The City Manager submitted a communication advising that during times of disaster, localities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia have relied upon assistance from other jurisdictions in responding to emergency situations; localities have loaned both equipment and personnel to deal with forest fires, chemical spills, flooding and weather-related disasters, etc., but financial cost and liability issues have often delayed or even prevented the sharing of resources; and existing formal mutual aid agreements, generally pertain to public safety issues, even though most major disasters require a wide range of responses, such as solid waste vehicles, real estate assessors, engineers, building officials and utility crews.

It was further advised that the Virginia Department of Emergency Management has developed a Statewide Mutual Aid Program which was approved at the year 2000 Virginia General Assembly Session to resolve liability and reimbursement issues before a disaster, and to quickly allow two or more localities to enter into a mutual aid agreement or contract; and governing bodies may enter into an authorizing resolution, effective for one year, automatically renewable for successive one year terms.

It was stated that the resolution addresses liability issues and establishes simple procedures to ensure proper reimbursement and auditing; to be eligible for assistance under the Program, a locality must have adopted an authorizing resolution before an emergency situation occurs; representatives from the four Roanoke Valley governments, public safety and public works agencies, have met to review the plan and recommend participation in the program; and staff

recommended that if one of the four governments receives a request under the Program, it should be referred to the other three governments to ensure that resources are not depleted in any one of the four localities.

It was explained that upon deployment, guidance and assistance with implementation and reimbursement is available through the Department of Emergency Management; there is no fiscal impact to approving the authorizing resolution, and the program is entirely voluntary; and in most cases, any government providing assistance during a declared disaster will be reimbursed for expenses incurred in helping other jurisdictions, either by that jurisdiction, or by the State or Federal government.

The City Manager recommended that Council agree to participate in the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement and that the City Manager be authorized to execute any required documents.

Mr. Harris offered the following resolution:

(#35181-010201) WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Services and Disaster Law of 2000, as amended, (Title 44, Chapter 3.2, of the Virginia Code) authorizes the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions to provide emergency aid and assistance in the event of a major disaster.

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 64, Page 75.)

Mr. Harris moved the adoption of Resolution No. 35181-010201. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, Hudson, Harris, White and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

**NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS:** The City Manager submitted a communication advising that in December 1999, the City of Roanoke entered into an agreement with the Roanoke Neighborhood Development Corporation (RNDC) and the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA); the RNDC was created to improve, develop and redevelop certain blighted and unsightly lots in the Henry Street areas, commonly referred to as the Gainsboro Redevelopment Area; and the agreement obligated the City to provide \$375,000.00 in General Funds as a capital contribution to be matched by RNDC.

It was further advised that RNDC was given until December 31, 2000, to raise the \$75,000.00 needed to match the initial grant amount of \$75,000.00, however, the agreement also set forth a provision that the City, at RNDC's



request, may grant a six-month extension; and a communication from RNDC provides an update on the group's progress and requests an extension to move the date of performance to June 30, 2001.

The City Manager recommended that she be authorized to extend the RNDC contract for six months as provided in the original contract.

Mr. White offered the following resolution:

**(#35182-010201) A RESOLUTION approving the extension of the deadline of the three-party agreement by and among the City of Roanoke, the Roanoke Neighborhood Development Corporation (RNDC) and the City of Roanoke Redevelopment Housing Authority (RRHA) by six months regarding the completion of the development and redevelopment of certain blighted and unsightly areas in the City, and authorizing the City Manager to execute the requisite extension agreement.**

(For full text of Resolution, see Resolution Book No. 64, Page 83.)

Mr. White moved the adoption of Resolution No. 35182-010201. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder.

Mr. Hudson expressed concern with regard to the City having spent in excess of \$400,000.00 on the RNDC project with taxpayers' money, and inquired as to any requirements for a match to the recent request by RNDC for an additional \$75,000.00.

The City Manager responded that Council was provided with a status report from Stan Hale, Project Manager, outlining a timeline for the project; a significant amount of investment in the RNDC project has been Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, not City funds; and a large portion of funds was spent working with community groups to manage and to develop the first phase of the Crew Suites Building, an office building which is intended to have approximately 45,000 square feet, with the City committed to leasing 15,000 square feet of the facility.

The City Manager advised that the amendment currently before the Council is a six month extension for the Roanoke Neighborhood Development Corporation to provide evidence that it has met the cash match of \$75,000.00 that was the City, advanced by and the \$300,000.00 escrow funds referenced in the document will be forwarded to RNDC upon commencement of construction of the facility; and the \$75,000.00 advancement was used toward development of the project, architectural and engineering drawings, leases, etc. She further advised that the \$25,000.00 from the General Fund was appropriated when the City was

notified that CDBG funds could no longer be used in connection with the project, and therefore, it was recommended that the remaining \$55,000.00 in CDGB funds be substituted with General Fund monies, and, in turn, reallocate the CDBG funds to the Kuumba Community Health and Wellness Center.

Ms. Wyatt pointed out that the people involved in the project have worked diligently, and part of the handicap is that the project has gone through three City Managers, along with several other changes, and the project has been held to a level of accountability that has not been placed on other projects.

Mr. White stated that the matter should be addressed by the entire Council and suggested that the City Manager schedule a work session to resolve various issues.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that a briefing will be scheduled at a future 2:00 p.m. Council meeting with regard to the Roanoke Neighborhood Development Corporation Project, including financial information on the amount of funds appropriated by the City to the project since inception and its accomplishments to date.

There being no further discussion and/or comments by the Members of Council, Resolution No. 35182-010201 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, Harris, Hudson, White and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE:

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE-AUDITS/FINANCIAL REPORTS: The Director of Finance submitted the Financial Report for the City of Roanoke for the month of November, 2000.

Council Member White questioned the Civic Center fund budget, which reflects an operating loss of approximately \$736,522.00 in fiscal year 2001, compared to \$640,744.00 in fiscal year 2000, and requested an explanation regarding the increased deficit. The Director of Finance advised that he would provide Council with additional information.

Also pertaining to the Civic Center, Council engaged in a discussion regarding a new policy in connection with the addition of \$1.00 per ticket in lieu of a parking fee, the new policy regarding sale of alcohol, and the Civic Center rental fee policy; whereupon, Council Member Wyatt requested that the Roanoke Civic Center Commission review the policy of imposing \$1.00 per ticket on each ticketed event, in lieu of a parking fee.

The City Manager suggested that Council meet with the Roanoke Civic Center Commission to discuss the above-referenced topics, as well as pending future needs relative to expansion and parking at the Civic Center.

There being no further discussion and/or comments by the Members of Council, the Mayor advised that the Financial Report for the month of November would be received and filed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: NONE.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

**STREETS AND ALLEYS:** Ordinance No. 35176 permanently vacating, discontinuing and closing a certain section of Edge Hill Avenue, S. E., extending in a westerly direction from 19<sup>th</sup> Street, for an approximate distance of 210 feet to the intersection with 18<sup>th</sup> Street, having previously been before the Council for its first reading on Monday, December 18, 2000, read and adopted on its first reading and laid over, was again before the body, Mr. Bestpitch offering the following for its second reading and final adoption:

(#35176-010201) AN ORDINANCE permanently vacating, discontinuing and closing certain public right-of-way in the City of Roanoke, Virginia, as more particularly described hereinafter.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 64, page 68.)

Mr. Bestpitch moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 35176-010201. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, Harris, Hudson, White and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

**EASEMENTS-STREETS AND ALLEYS-CABLE TELEVISION-WATER RESOURCES:** Ordinance No. 35177 authorizing the granting of an easement across City-owned property located at 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Luck Avenue, S. W., to Cox Communications, Inc., for installation of a concrete pad and electrical equipment cabinet to provide telecom circuit protection, upon certain terms and conditions, having previously been before the Council for its first reading on Monday, December 18, 2000, read and adopted on its first reading and laid over, was again before the body, Mr. Harris offering the following for its second reading and final adoption:

**(#35177-010201) AN ORDINANCE authorizing the granting of an easement across City-owned property located at 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Luck Avenue, S. W., to Cox Communications, Inc., for installation of a concrete pad and electrical equipment cabinet to provide telecom circuit protection, upon certain terms and conditions.**

**(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 64, page 70.)**

**Mr. Harris moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 35177-010201. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:**

**AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, Harris, Hudson, White and Mayor Smith-----7.**

**NAYS: None-----0.**

**EASEMENTS-CITY PROPERTY-TELEPHONE COMPANIES-SCHOOLS: Ordinance No. 35178 authorizing the donation and conveyance of a 15-foot easement across City-owned property known as the Lincoln Terrace Elementary School Site to Verizon, for installation of underground facilities, upon certain terms and conditions, having previously been before the Council for its first reading on Monday, December 18, 2000, read and adopted on its first reading and laid over, was again before the body, Mr. Hudson offering the following for its second reading and final adoption:**

**(#35178-010201) AN ORDINANCE authorizing the donation and conveyance of a 15-foot easement across City-owned property known as the Lincoln Terrace Elementary School site to Verizon, for installation of underground facilities, upon certain terms and conditions.**

**(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 64, page 71.)**

**Mr. Hudson moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 35178-01021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and adopted by the following vote:**

**AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, Harris, Hudson, White and Mayor Smith-----7.**

**NAYS: None-----0.**

**LICENSES-WATER RESOURCES- STREETS AND ALLEYS: Ordinance No. 35179 granting a revocable license to permit the construction and encroachment of a paved parking area 25-feet into the public right-of-way in front of property located at 1313 Peters Creek Road, N. W., identified as Official Tax No. 2770604, upon certain terms and conditions, having previously been before the Council**

for its first reading on Monday, December 18, 2000, read and adopted on its first reading and laid over, was again before the body, Mr. Bestpitch offering the following for its second reading and final adoption:

(#35179-010201) AN ORDINANCE granting a revocable license to permit the construction and encroachment of a paved parking area 25-feet into the public right-of-way in front of the property located at 1313 Peters Creek Road, N. W., identified as Official Tax No. 2770604, upon certain terms and conditions.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 64, page 72.)

Mr. Bestpitch moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 35179-010201. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carder and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, Harris, Hudson, White and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

LEASES-WATER RESOURCES: Ordinance No. 35180 authorizing the proper City officials to enter into a lease agreement between the City and Sandra Rouse for use of a 12.17-acre tract of land located along Back Creek, for agricultural purposes, for a five year period, effective January 15, 2001, at an annual rental of \$10.00 per acre, upon certain terms and conditions, having previously been before the Council for its first reading on Monday, December 18, 2000, read and adopted on its first reading and laid over, was again before the body, Mr. White offering the following for its second reading and final adoption:

(#35180-010201) AN ORDINANCE authorizing the proper City officials to enter into a lease agreement between the City and Sandra Rouse, for use of a 12.17-acre tract of land located along Back Creek, for a five year period, effective January 15, 2001, at an annual rental of \$10.00 per acre, upon certain terms and conditions for agricultural purposes.

(For full text of Ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 64, page 74.)

Mr. White moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 35180-010201. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Carder, Harris, Hudson, White and Mayor Smith-----7.

NAYS: None-----0.

MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

**INQUIRIES AND/OR COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:**

**COMMITTEES:** The Mayor presented a proposal with regard to composition of a Blue Ribbon Committee to review the overall structure and process of appointments to Council-appointed authorities, boards, commissions and committees.

Mr. White advised that the Members of Council need time to review and consider the Mayor's proposal; whereupon, he suggested that the proposal be received and taken under advisement.

Ms. Wyatt agreed that Council should review the qualifications of individuals seeking appointment to various City committees, a formal process for appointment should be established.

Mr. Harris advised that discussion with regard to a citizens committee was appropriate for discussion in open session, but discussion of specific individuals to serve on the various committees should take place in a closed session. He further advised that there should be a competitive application process, i.e., a public hearing, an interview process, or combination thereof.

Mr. Harris moved that Council table the proposal of the Mayor until the next Council meeting, with the understanding that Council will ultimately vote on the creation of a committee, and appointments to the Blue Ribbon Committee will be discussed in closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hudson.

Following further discussion of the matter, it was the consensus of Council to engage in a work session immediately following the Greater Roanoke Valley Leaders Summit on Monday, January 8, at 12:00 noon at the Jefferson Center, Fitzpatrick Hall, to discuss the process of appointments by Council to City of Roanoke boards, commissions and committees.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: NONE.**

At 4:55 p.m., the Mayor declared the meeting in recess for continuation of the previously approved Closed Session.

At 6:30 p.m., the meeting reconvened in the Council Chamber, with Mayor Smith presiding, and all Members of the Council in attendance, with the exception of Vice-Mayor Carder, who left the meeting during the Closed Session.

**COUNCIL:** With respect to the Closed Meeting just concluded, Mr. Bestpitch moved that each Member of City Council certify to the best of his or her knowledge that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in any Closed Meeting were heard, discussed or considered by City Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and adopted by the following vote:

**AYES:** Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Harris, Hudson, White and Mayor Smith-----6.

**NAYS:** None-----0.

(Vice-Mayor Carder left the meeting during the Closed Session.)

**OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-HUMAN DEVELOPMENT:** The Mayor advised that the term of office of Michael W. Ridenhour as a member of the Advisory Board of Human Development expired on November 30, 2000; and called attention to a vacancy on the Advisory Board of Human Development created by the resignation of Malcolm L. Taylor, for a term ending November 30, 2003; whereupon he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancies.

Ms. Wyatt placed in nomination the name of Louise H. Patterson.

Mr. Bestpitch placed in nomination the name of Clarence W. Hall.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Patterson was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Malcolm L. Taylor, resigned, ending November 30, 2003; and Mr. Hall was appointed for a term ending November 20, 2004, as members of the Advisory Board of Human Development, by the following vote:

**FOR MS. PATTERSON AND MR. HALL:** Council Members Wyatt, Bestpitch, Harris, Hudson, White and Mayor Smith-----6.

(Vice-Mayor Carder left the meeting during the Closed Session.)

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting in recess at 6:30 p.m., to be reconvened on Tuesday, January 8, 2001, at 12:00 noon at which time Roanoke City Council will host a Work Session with elected-officials from surrounding localities and to engage in further dialogue with regard to the process for appointments to Council-Appointed authorities, boards, commissions and committees Hall at The Jefferson Center, Fitzpatrick Hall, 541 Luck Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, Virginia.

The regular meeting of Roanoke City Council which convened on Tuesday, January 2, 2001, and was declared in recess until Tuesday, January 8, 2001, was called to order on January 8 at 12:00 noon The Jefferson Center, Fitzpatrick Hall, 541 Luck Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, by Mayor Ralph K. Smith.

**PRESENT:** Council Members William D. Bestpitch, William H. Carder, C. Nelson Harris, W. Alvin Hudson, Jr., Linda F. Wyatt and Mayor Ralph K. Smith-----6.

**ABSENT:** Council Member William White, Sr.-----1.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; James D. Grisso, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Congressman Bob Goodlatte; Senator John S. Edwards; Delegate C. Richard Cranwell; Mayor Carl E. Tarpley, Jr., City of Salem; Alexander M. Brown, Member, Salem City Council; John Givens, Member, Salem City Council; Gerald M. Pace, Member, Salem City Council; Forest G. Jones, City Manager, City of Salem; James E. Taliaferro, II, Assistant City Manager/Clerk, City of Salem; W. Wayne Angell, Chairman, Franklin County Board of Supervisors; Charles Wagner, Member, Franklin County Board of Supervisors; Donald L. Riddle, Sr., Member, Franklin County Board of Supervisors; John W. Helms, Member, Franklin County Board of Supervisors; Joseph P. McNamara, Chair, Roanoke County Board of Supervisors; Joseph "Butch" Church, Member, Roanoke County Board of Supervisors; Bob L. Johnson, Member, Roanoke County Board of Supervisors; Harry C. Nickens, Member, Roanoke County Board of Supervisors; Elmer C. Hodge, Roanoke County Administrator; Mary Allen, Clerk, Roanoke County Board of Supervisors; Paul Mahoney, Roanoke County Attorney; William Loope, Vice-Chair, Botetourt County Board of Supervisors; Stephen P. Clinton, Member, Botetourt County Board of Supervisors; Gerald A. Burgess, Botetourt County Administrator; Donald L. Davis, Mayor, Town of Vinton; Robert R. Altice, Vice-Mayor, Town of Vinton; Bradley E. Grose, Member, Vinton Town Council; Thomas A. Rotenberry, Member, Vinton Town Council; B. Clayton Goodman, Vinton Town Manager; Kevin Boggess, Assistant Town Manager for the Town of Vinton; James D. Ritchie, Sr., Deputy City Manager, City of Roanoke; Chris Slone, Public Information Officer, City of Roanoke; Wayne G. Strickland, Executive Director, Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission; Beth Doughty, President/CEO, Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce; and Pete Larkin, Legislative Aide to Congressman Goodlatte.



**Mayor Smith welcomed everyone to the first Greater Roanoke Valley Leaders Summit and advised that the purpose of the meeting is to hold cooperative work sessions, to establish a productive working relationship that will benefit and serve all citizens of the Greater Roanoke Valley; and today's meeting was called for the purpose of becoming better acquainted, and to begin ongoing dialogue with regard to topics of mutual interest and concern.**

**The invocation was delivered by Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Harry Nickens.**

**The meeting was declared in recess at 12:10 p.m., for lunch.**

**Following lunch, the business session reconvened at 1:00 p.m.**

**Mayor Smith recognized Congressman Bob Goodlatte for remarks.**

**Congressman Goodlatte commended attendees of the meeting for their willingness to work together. He added that elected officials at the State level are interested in meeting with representatives from the different localities to discuss issues that affect their localities, and his office stands ready to work with local officials on projects to be undertaken.**

**Mayor Smith recognized Senator John Edwards for remarks.**

**Senator Edwards offered his assistance to the localities represented at the meeting and advised that citizens of the Roanoke Valley increasingly reside in one jurisdiction and work in another, therefore, the jurisdictions need to continue to identify ways in where to work together to gain more power for the region.**

**Mayor Smith also recognized Delegate Richard Cranwell for remarks.**

**Delegate Cranwell expressed appreciation for being invited to attend the first Leadership Summit and offered his assistance to the localities represented at the meeting.**

**Mayor Smith expressed appreciation to Congressman Goodlatte, Senator Edwards and Delegate Cranwell for their participation in the meeting.**

**Mayor Smith advised that it would be productive to use the initial meeting as a time to establish direction for future meetings, inasmuch as there has been a sentiment in the community for increased regional cooperation; however, the question is "how".**

**Mayor Smith opened the floor for responses to the following question: What primary issue would those localities participating in the Leadership Summit like to address over the next five years?**

**The following suggestions were offered by officials in attendance:**

**improved air service,  
regional economic development authority,  
vocational education,  
promotion of tourism,  
resources to attract industry,  
trained labor force,  
additional regionalized parks and facilities,  
recreational programs,  
development of regional, non-competitive economic development,  
strategy targeted to one industry cluster,  
comprehensive rescue plan,  
regional water supply and regional sewage treatment and collection  
system,  
creation of a committee to keep the Roanoke River and Smith  
Mountain Lake clean,  
fire/ems,  
regional library system,  
track facility for high school track and field athletes,  
technology infrastructure for future industries,  
100 per cent funding for mandates,  
ensure that Virginia Tech is a suburb of our area,  
build the Bio-Medical Center,  
high speed Internet access,  
positive regional and local programs for youth both before and after  
school and on weekends,  
improvements to the I-81 north and south corridor,  
improvements of the transportation system, and  
establishment of passenger rail service throughout the Roanoke Valley.**

**Mayor Smith advised that the list of suggestions would be compiled and forwarded to each locality, with the request that each locality will rank its top three choices which will lead to a discussion at the next Leadership Summit.**

**Mayor Smith opened the floor for volunteers to host the next Leadership Summit; whereupon, Roanoke County extended an invitation to host the next meeting, and advised that the date and location will be forwarded at a later date.**

**It was the consensus of participants in the Leadership Summit to meet on a regular basis; whereupon, Vice-Chair Kirby Richardson, Bedford County Board of Supervisors, offered to host the third Greater Roanoke Valley Leadership Summit in July 2001, in Bedford, Virginia.**

**There being no further business, Mayor Smith declared the meeting of Roanoke City Council in recess at 1:45 p.m.**

At 1:50 p.m., the City Council meeting reconvened in Fitzpatrick Hall at the Jefferson Center, 541 Luck Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with all Members of the Council in attendance, with the exception of Mayor Ralph K. Smith, Vice-Mayor William H. Carder presided over the meeting.

Vice-Mayor Carder advised that the purpose of the Work Session was to discuss the Mayor's proposal with regard to composition of a Blue Ribbon Committee to review the number, overall and process of appointment of persons to Council-Appointed authorities, boards, commissions and committees.

Mr. Harris suggested that two members of Council, two Council-appointed officers, the City Attorney, City Manager or City Clerk, or a combination thereof, be appointed to study the proposal and report back to the Council.

Ms. Wyatt suggested that the City Attorney and the City Clerk be appointed to review the Mayor's proposal for appointment of a Blue Ribbon Committee to study the overall process for appointments to City of Roanoke boards and commissions and she volunteered to serve as a Council representative to the committee. She advised that the selection process for persons to serve on the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Roanoke Civic Center Commission, City Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals should be similar to the selection process for School Trustee, which includes a stipend.

At this point, Mayor Smith entered the meeting and Vice-Mayor Carder relinquished the Chair.

Mr. Harris offered the following suggestions for consideration by the Committee:

- The elimination of or consolidation of certain boards and commissions;
- Decreased membership on some committees;
- Council liaisons should be appointed to certain boards and commissions;
- Receive citizen comments with regard to persons serving on high profile boards, commissions and committees

He added that a stipend should be provided for those persons serving on certain boards, commissions and committees, such as the City Planning Commission.

Mr. Bestpitch suggested that the City Manager, or her designee, be appointed to the committee.

Mayor Smith requested that the City Clerk poll other Virginia municipalities with regard to which boards, commissions, and committees receive stipends from the locality.

Mr. Harris concurred in the Mayor's suggestion and advised that School Trustees currently receive a stipend of approximately \$300.00 - \$400.00 per month; however, those boards and commissions that are not required to meet with a great deal of frequency or address budgetary and/or personnel issues should not receive monthly stipends.

Mr. Harris moved that Council Member Wyatt, Vice-Mayor Carder, the City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk be appointed to study and submit recommendations to Council regarding the restructuring of City authorities, boards, commissions and committees. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bestpitch and adopted.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

APPROVED

ATTEST:

Mary F. Parker  
City Clerk

Ralph K. Smith  
Mayor

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